side panels **22** one of which is made suitable for mounting thereon a spin lever **24** appropriately sufficing as an input interface device **26** to set in motion the images or symbols. Each side panel consists of a secondary translucent surface **28** for accepting and mounting therebehind advertisements and the like. It is noted herein, however, that the cabinet may comprise of alternative input interface devices for setting in motion the images, including spin and max bet switches **30**, **32** accessibly mounted to the front panel **14**, preferably below the divided display windows **16**, and operably connected and controlled by process controller means **34** contained within the cabinet, as will be discussed hereinafter in more descriptive detail.

[**0039**] Also, as illustrated in FIG. **1**, the front panel **14**, in conjunction with the spin and max bet switches, comprises a bill insertion slot **36** for accepting therein a bill for credit reserve to initiate activation of the spin lever or switches, an attendant switch **38** for calling an attendant to the memento dispensing device **10** to address and service selective issues concerning electrical and mechanical components operably controlled by process controller means **34**, and a change-out switch **40** for dispensing the residual amount of the credit reserve calculably posted on a numeric display counter **42** placed below and adjacent to the divided display windows **16**.

[**0040**] For this particular memento dispensing device **10**, a currency acceptor **44** in the form of a bill validator **46** is provided to accept money in the form of paper currency in a bill insertion slot **36**, generally in common denominations of $1.00, $5.00, and $10.00. A suitable bill validator for the preferred embodiment of the present invention is the DBV-200 bill validator manufactured by JCM of Kanagawa and Osaka, Japan. The bill validator pulls in the bills, determines the denomination of the bills and determines whether the bills are valid. If a bill is invalid, it will be returned to the consumer back through a return slot incorporated in the bill validator. To the extent valid bills are inserted into the bill validator, the bill validator **46** will retain them and communicate their presence to process controller means **34**. In the alternative or in addition to the bill validator, the currency acceptor **44** may be in the form of a coin acceptor **48** contemplating a coin collecting box **50** which collectively operate similarly to the bill validator in terms of collecting money in the form of coins, counting them, validating them, and storing them. Again, the information about the amount and validity of coins ascertained by the coin acceptor is communicated to process controller means **34** of the memento dispensing device. As noted for an alternative embodiment of the memento dispensing device **10**, the bill validator **46** may be configured to accept credit cards as permitted by the establishment, such as a SMARTCARD™, or those offered by multinational corporations, such as VISA™, MASTERCARD™ or AMERICAN EXPRESS™.

[**0041**] If sufficient bills, coins or credits have been inserted into the memento dispensing device, the process controller means will permit activation of the spin lever **24** or switches **30**, **32** by the operator or consumer to set in rotational motion the images depicted on the reel wheels. In the preferred embodiment, the spin and max bet switches located on the front panel **14** are illuminated and enabled by process controller means **34**. As noted above, the spin and max bet switches effectively serve as alternative means of allowing the consumer or operator to set in motion the images by simply pressing downwardly on either one of them in lieu of pulling downwardly on the spin lever. The presence of other switches, such as the attendant and change-out switches **38**, **40**, are equally illuminated during operation of the memento dispensing device of the present invention, particularly when their functions are available for activation by the consumer or operator.

[**0042**] In addition to the interactive, illuminated switches, a lower portion **52** of the front panel comprises a chute **54** for passing therethrough mementos retrieved from a memento bin or hopper assembly **56** housed within the cabinet **12** and operably controlled by process controller means **34** via a hopper controller **58**. A variety of hopper devices presently known in the art may be employed in the operative capacity of dispensing mementos in the form of tokens and other commemorative objects from the memento dispensing device **10**, particularly hoppers of the type manufactured by the Asahi Seiko Company, Ltd of Tokyo, Japan, notably known as the DH series. It is noted herein that hopper assemblies having a larger storage and dispensing capacity and coupled to an associated hopper controller **58** for linking with process controller means **34** may be used in the capacity for dispensing mementos in other varied forms other than for a token noted hereinbefore. A reservoir **60** mounted externally on the lower portion **52** of the front panel **14** is suitably positioned in range of and below the chute **54** to collect and store mementos as they accumulate during repeated operation of the memento dispensing device **10**. As discussed above, the front panel comprises primary translucent surfaces **20** for mounting therebehind one or more decorative panels which depicts printed matter in the nature of advertisements, themes, and other promotional offerings of the establishment and an access door **62** for accessing process controller means **34** as well as other electrical and mechanical components housed within the cabinet **12**. In the preferred embodiment, as depicted in FIG. **2**, the decorative panel on the primary translucent surface is illuminated by a back-light fixture **64** to further the above-noted purpose, particularly to differentiate the memento dispensing device **10** from among other physical features typically found at an establishment. As shown in FIG. **1**, these decorative panels may be arranged below and above the illuminated switches **30**, **32** to maximize their appeal or effectiveness on the consumer as well as appearing behind the secondary translucent surface **28** of side panels **22**, as shown in FIG. **3**. In other operable respects, the memento dispensing device, like the conventional slot machine, comprises an illuminated candle **66** situated atop the cabinet **12** which can be activated by the consumer in the event of an observed malfunction of the memento dispensing device via the attendant switch **38** or automatically activated upon the recognition of internal error codes by process controller means **34**, such as in the event of an observable tilt condition of the memento dispensing device. Accordingly, in this instance, the bill validator **46** or coin acceptor **48** will not accept any currency of recognizable denomination, thus rendering the memento dispensing device **10** inoperative, which is reassuringly apparent to the consumer by the activation of the illuminated candle **66**.

[**0043**] In furthering the utility of the present invention in terms of its entertaining capabilities, process controller means **34** is communicatively coupled to means for playing back video **68** footage stored in recognizable memory, substantially comprising a video playback card **70** having an